

**MOVING FORWARD: PROGRESS ON *STRAIGHT TALK* AND THE
REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATURE: WSDOT Planning,
Engineering and Support Work in Relation To Central Puget Sound Area Projects
in Relation to Proposed Regional Transportation Investment District**

BRIEFING PAPER
Prepared for the
JANUARY 2003 TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING

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PURPOSE:

To update the Commission on project activities and program budget and staffing adjustments made in the wake of the failure of Referendum 51.

ACTION/OUTCOME:

The Commission will understand the current status of the urban corridor projects and the funding options for future work efforts.

BACKGROUND:

Over the last year, work efforts for the urban corridor office projects have been on accelerated schedules geared towards accomplishing key design and environmental decision-making. This accelerated decision making was keyed by the anticipation of significant funding coming through the passage of Referendum 51 and the Regional Transportation Investment District (RTID) to design and construct significant portions of each so-called "mega-project." With the failure of the referendum, the previous level of work effort on the urban corridor office projects cannot be sustained because of limited current law funding, and therefore those work efforts have been reduced. This reduction will have the negative impact of delaying the construction of each project by at least one year, assuming substantial funding becomes available in the fall/winter of 2003/2004 due to the passage of an RTID proposal. If RTID funding does not become available in that time frame (or other significant funding) then further delays will occur.

In addition, since the failure of Referendum, each project has undergone some re-evaluation regarding their scope and size, recognizing that even under the best circumstances funding would not be available to build all of the projects being put forward. These reviews are being done by department and consultant staff and each project's executive leadership committees and are being closely coordinated with the RTID committee and their staff support personnel. Tentative changes will be discussed.

DISCUSSION:

The following information will be presented at the January 2003 Commission Meeting for the Alaskan Way Viaduct and Seattle Seawall Replacement Project, the I-405 Congestion Relief and Bus Rapid Transit Projects, the SR 509 Freight and Congestion Relief Corridor Project, and the SR 520 Bridge Replacement and HOV Project:

- Current Scope & Cost Estimate Ranges for each project or group of projects
- Current Budget, Planned Work Activities, and Schedule for each project or group of projects
- Possible Short-Term Funding to assist in the design and environmental decision-making for each project or group of projects
- Funding Options (dollar levels and products) for the Commission's use in the Capital Projects 10-year CIP assembly process

RECOMMENDATION:

No recommendation is necessary.

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